

In each of these meetings, these men and women have expressed deep concern about the so-called health care reforms that have been sponsored by the House majority, the Pelosi bill, and most are opposed. They are worried about how this massive bill, over 1,900 pages long, will affect their doctor-patient relationship, their personal care, and their ability to afford their health insurance. And they are worried with good reason.

H.R. 3962 is a toxic-mixture of job-killing higher taxes, rampant new mandates on businesses and individuals of all ages and damaging Medicare cuts, combined with a government takeover of health care.

It demands opposition on so many grounds:

First, according to the Congressional Budget Office, H.R. 3962 will cost at least \$1.2 trillion over the next ten years! This is mind-boggling, on top of earlier borrowing and deficits!

To pay for this massive new spending, Speaker PELOSI wants to raise taxes and cut Medicare that older Americans depend on each and every day.

My colleagues, we heard the grim news yesterday that unemployment currently is at a 26-year high—10.2 percent. (And we know it's actually higher.) And yet, this bill contains \$735 billion in new taxes!

Using the formula developed by the chief White House economic advisor, 5.5 million Americans could lose their jobs as a result of enactment of the Pelosi Health Care bill.

\$735 billion in new taxes.

Among the new taxes is a new "surtax" on high-income filers—many of whom are small business men and women.

While this tax is intended to target "high-income" individuals and couples, it is not indexed for inflation, meaning it will reach millions more New Jersey residents over time just like the Alternative Minimum Tax.

H.R. 3962 also includes taxes on individuals who do not purchase government-mandated health insurance.

Think about this! You do not make enough money to afford health insurance and this bill actually fines you! The end result: you still don't have coverage and you've been fined as well!

Young people will be particularly surprised that they will be subject to such a fine!

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I thank the chairman, and I congratulate him for the excellent work he and others have done on this bill.

I want to discuss the importance of the bill in addressing hard-to-reach communities, including commercial fishermen, who are a very important part of my constituency, but also farmers and ranchers. Ranchers tend to be a less important part of my constituency.

We are creating a new health insurance marketplace and requiring everyone to have coverage, which I support. This makes it particularly important to educate those that haven't had reliable, continuous access to quality, affordable health care.

Under the bill, will the commissioner be able to contract with entities such

as commercial fishing organizations or others to facilitate the dissemination of information?

Mr. WAXMAN. The answer is yes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman. I assume this means also the commissioner can work with the Small Business Administration on this sort of outreach and education?

Mr. WAXMAN. Yes. The bill ensures the commissioner will work with the Small Business Administration.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I thank the chairman for clarifying these points.

Section 2229 of the Senate bill recognizes the unique health care educational outreach needs of commercial fishermen, farmers and ranchers, and I hope that that will be accepted in the final bill.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the honorable gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), one of the strong pro-life leaders in the U.S. Congress, a combat veteran of Vietnam, and a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, there has been some recent confusion surrounding the inclusion of abortion coverage in H.R. 3962, but the issue is actually quite clear. The Capps amendment in the bill, which some have argued is neutral on abortion, explicitly authorizes the Federal Government to directly fund elective abortions using Federal funds drawn from a Federal Treasury account. The provision has been billed as a so-called compromise amendment. But this bill will radically expand current and longstanding Federal policy with respect to abortion.

Currently, there is not a single government health care program that provides coverage for elective abortion; not SCHIP, not Medicaid, not DOD, Indian Health or the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program, all because of congressional action to explicitly prohibit coverage of abortion under each of these programs. But such an explicit exclusion is missing from this bill.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support, when it comes up later, the Stupak-Pitts-Chris Smith-Ellsworth-Dahlkemper-Kaptur amendment that would prevent Federal funding of abortion in this bill.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), a member of our committee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Democrats will now deliver on what American families and businesses have been asking for when it comes to their health: one, meaningful, secure and stable insurance; two, improved Medicare for seniors; and, three, vital consumer protections.

For families with health insurance, health reform will provide you with coverage you can count on. Families will no longer have to worry about insurance companies canceling their cov-

erage because someone in their family gets sick. Health insurance companies will no longer be able to bar you from insurance just because you have diabetes or cancer or some other chronic condition.

American families have been doing everything right. They have been paying their copays and paying their premiums, even as those costs have risen dramatically. Our health bill says that in return, that coverage must be meaningful, stable and secure. And for our family members who rely on Medicare, you will see immediate improvements, in your prescriptions, your checkups, and a provision I worked on, to penalize unscrupulous practices of private Medicare insurance sales agents.

The meaningful health reform that will pass the House today builds on the great legacies of Social Security and Medicare, and I am proud to represent Florida families in this historic vote.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS), who represents the entire State.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today on behalf of the people of Wyoming, where individual freedom and personal responsibility are hallmark values.

This \$1 trillion tax-everybody-right-down-to-the-wheelchair debacle will impact every person in Wyoming. This bill will force my constituents to buy insurance, whether it makes sense for them or not. This bill will dump some of my constituents into a government-run health care program to which Members of Congress will not even subject themselves.

I sought an amendment that would allow States to shield their citizens from government-forced insurance, from taxes and possible fines or imprisonment, from government policies that come between themselves and their doctors, from unfunded mandates on States. But my amendment and dozens of others were swept away by the majority, and American freedoms right along with it.

Our Constitution was designed to empower the American people and shackle the Federal Government. This bill will shackle the American people while empowering the Federal Government. It is a sad day for Wyoming, Mr. Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY), who has been a leader in our efforts to lower growth in premiums through measures such as immediate review and justification of insurance rate increases.

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Colleagues, voting "yes"